



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

January 31, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Threat Assessment Conference, March 31-April 2, 2014

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the following conference for school officials: *2014 Threat Assessment Teams in Public Schools and Institutions of Higher Education: Demystifying the Process to Enhance Safety and Improve School Climates*. The conference will be held March 31-April 2, 2014 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Richmond-Midlothian Hotel, 1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia 23235. It is intended for superintendents, administrators, school resource officers and security officers, and those involved in managing and performing threat assessments. In light of past tragedies and recent Virginia legislation mandating K-12 Threat Assessment Teams, "threat assessment" has become a recommended practice to facilitate early identification and intervention with a range of safety concerns in educational settings.

Participants will hear from local, state, and national presenters on the many facets of threat assessment in schools, colleges, and universities, with an extension into the workplace. Topics will include the basics of threat assessment, legal issues, initiatives in place throughout the country, mental health issues, assessment tools, and the need for prevention measures.

The conference is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services' Virginia Center for School Safety in partnership with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Department of Health and the Office of the Attorney General. The Consortium for the Advancement of Threat Assessment and Management in Higher Education at the University of Virginia, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and the Sigma Threat Management Associates are also supporting partners.

There is a \$100 registration fee for the three day conference. Participants will be responsible for lodging and travel. Individuals must pre-register for the conference and contact the hotel for lodging. Hotel accommodations must be made by March 9, 2014, to ensure the state rate of \$83. Please click on the link below to register for the conference and for detailed information on lodging and the conference sessions.

<http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/vcss/training/ThreatAssessmentConference/2014/>

Questions may be directed to Donna Michaelis, manager, public safety training at the Virginia Center for School Safety at 804-371-6506, donna.michaelis@dcjs.virginia.gov or Shellie MacKenzie, school and campus safety training coordinator at 804-225-1863 or shellie.mackenzie@dcjs.virginia.gov.

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